

Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from October 2, 2011

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Scripture of the Week



Isaiah 45:21-22

"Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."

God has proven to His people over and over again that He has no equal when it comes to wisdom and power. He makes the loftiest of claims, but He alone can back them up with evidence of the strongest sort. God reasons with us in Isaiah 45 that it is utter foolishness to trust in anyone or anything else but Him for salvation. It was He who created the heavens and the earth (verse 18), He formed the light and the darkness, He makes peace and calamity (verse 7). Therefore it is the greatest folly for those who have been created to strive with their own Creator—it is senselessness for the clay to resist their Potter's will (verse 9). Isaiah prophesied between 745-695 B.C. In Isaiah 45:1, he foretold that Israel would be set free from their

captivity, and called by name God's instrument of liberation. He referred to King Cyrus of Persia as His anointed ruler who would restore His captives back to the Land of Promise, at least 150 years before the Persian Empire existed and this event came to pass. Who else could call a king by name a century and a half before he even had a name? Who else could tell of an event such as this from ancient time and have it come to fruition (verse 21)? Only the all-wise and all-powerful Creator and Savior of mankind. His people repeatedly turned to lifeless idols for salvation, thus the reason for their defeat and banishment from their homes in the first place. Through Isaiah God appealed to them and all people, *"Look to Me, and be saved!"*

Look to God for Salvation

In chapter 45 of Isaiah, God promised He would restore His captive people to the Land of Promise. When He gave them the good land, God warned His children through Joshua, *"When you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and you will perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you"* (Joshua 23:16). They didn't heed the warnings and went after heathen gods, and just as God made good on His Promised Land, He made good on His promised punishment. Their Assyrian and Babylonian oppressors

mercilessly afflicted them, and carried them off to foreign domains. And well before God restored them back to their inheritance, He reasoned with His rebellious children and warned against faithlessness. Isaiah wrote, *"They will be put to shame and even humiliated, all of them; the manufacturers of idols will go away together in humiliation"* (verse 16). The practice of idol worship is a shameful and disgraceful thing for any people, but that is especially true when God's people are the culprits. It is utter foolishness to carry around wooden idols and pray to impotent gods who cannot save (verse 20). And while we may not carve idols out of tree trunks and

decorate them and bow down to them today, we must be careful to not elevate anyone or anything higher than God within our hearts. He alone is worthy of our allegiance and adoration. No preacher or elder, politician or celebrity, millionaire or mogul, deserves the first place of admiration above God, and we must respect His written word over anything that anyone else may say. No mere mortal, no matter how beloved, respected or influential can be entrusted with the security of our immortal souls. We must value God above all people, all possessions and all other earthly things, for only He has the power to enrich our lives eternally.

Please Come Visit Us At...

Prairie Village Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30

Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30

Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30

Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



The Ways We Worship

If you were to tour the country and visit the church services of the numerous denominations that exist today, you would discover a great diversity in the forms in which people attempt to worship God. There are “contemporary” worship services and “traditional” worship services, hand clapping and foot stamping, dancing in the pews and falling out in the aisles. Some people even allow snakes to crawl over their bodies in an expression of veneration for God. In the ecumenical world of modern religion, worshiping God has become merely a matter of personal preferences. In the minds of most believers, God has left the decision up to the worshipers, how best to express their adoration to Him. Worship is serious

business to God and we would be wise to pay close attention to all He has to say about it in the pages of His Holy Bible. The New Testament makes mention of four types of worship, and of the four, only one is acceptable to the Lord.

- **Ignorant Worship** — In John 4:22, Jesus told a Samaritan woman that she worshiped what she didn't know. Samaritans worshipped God only according to the first 5 books of the Bible. This made their worship uninformed and unacceptable.
- **Vain Worship** — In Matthew 15:9, Jesus chastised the scribes and Pharisees for vainly worshiping God according to the traditions of human beings instead of the commandments of the Creator.

- **Will Worship** — Colossians 2:23 condemns certain unauthorized, austere religious practices because they are self-made and not God-approved. Many people worship God according to their own desires.
- **Worship in Spirit and in Truth** — Jesus said in John 4:24 to the Samaritan woman that all people must worship God in spirit and truth to make their worship acceptable. Proper worship is not a judgment call. God always specifies the precise ways He desires His people to worship Him. In the Old Testament God instructed the early fathers and the nation of Israel in the proper ways of worship. Today He instructs Christians on how to properly worship Him in the pages of the New Testament.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH GERRY SANDUSKY

If you missed any of the lessons from our Gospel meeting of August 15-17, they are posted on our website at www.pvchurchofchrist.com. Click the tab that indicates that meeting, and you can either “left click” the “play” button and listen to the sermon from your computer, or you can “right click” and save that sermon to file and listen to it elsewhere. Thanks to everyone who attended and prayed for our special meeting.